THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The on time performance (in %) of Air India and Indian Airlines during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Air India	Indian Airlines
2002-03	90.4	76.84
2003-04	90.5	74.41
2004-05	91.0	69.44

Delays are mainly due to reasons beyond the control of Air India and Indian Airlines i.e. weather constraints, ATC delays, airport infrastructure constraints etc. and the consequential delays.

(c) All delays are investigated to pinpoint the cause and remedial action is taken wherever necessary, In addition, Government is upgrading the infrastructure which will help airlines to improve their on time performance.

Cancellation of Air India Express Services

1590. SHRI V NARAYANASAMY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India Express which was started in the Gulf sector as budget Airlines stopped its services for sometime in view of the pilot shortage due to sudden resignation of pilots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Air India Express Management recruited sufficient number of pilots while starting the new services; and

(d) what efforts have been made to ensure that such an incident does not happen in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India Express had to curtail operations due to sudden resignation of 12 number of pilots.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Disciplinary proceedings against the pilots have since been initiated as per relevant provisions of the company. In addition, Air India Express Management have decided to maintain closer contact with the pilots to avoid sudden recurrence of such an incident.

Charges for using Al and lA'S infrastructure

1591. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the aviation infrastructure of Indian Airlines and Air India is being used by our Armed Forces also;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these companies are charging for their services extended to the Armed Forces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Both Air India and Indian Airlines provide services of transportation, engineering maintenance, ground handling etc. to the Armed Forces depending on their requirements from time to time.

(c) and (d) The charges for services rendered are billed to the concerned organization at agreed rate/current applicable rate, as the case may be.

Upgradation of Hubli Airport

1592. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 2 crore was sanctioned to Hubli Airport for setting up of Night Landing and Refuelling facilities;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India has since started Night Landing facilities at Hubli Airport;

(c) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the Hubli Airport to a full-fledged airport; and